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C O N F I D E N T I A L MUSCAT 000415

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E.O. 12958: DECL: 04/29/2017

TAGS: [PREL](#) [KPAO](#) [MU](#)

SUBJECT: OMANI RESPONSE TO BEHEADING OF CAPTIVE BY CHILD  
TALIBAN

REF: STATE 55709

Classified By: Ambassador Gary A. Grappo for Reasons 1.4 (b, d)

(C) During an April 28 meeting with Minister Responsible for Foreign Affairs Yusef bin Alawi, the Ambassador raised reftel points in asking the Omani government to consider publicly condemning the beheading of a Pakistani male by a boy affiliated with the Taliban. Bin Alawi responded that the Taliban had likely circulated a video of the beheading in a deliberate attempt to draw attention to their cause. He added that public statements against the murder, however well-intentioned, were ultimately ineffectual in influencing the Taliban and could prove counter-productive by giving them the publicity they stridently seek.  
GRAPPO